

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Arnside National Church of England School

Vision

We are committed to enabling every individual to aspire, believe and achieve. The roots of our vision for every member of the school community are embedded in love; our core Christian value.

'Let all that you do be done in love'. (1 Corinthians 16:14)

Arnside National Church of England School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Notable Strengths

- The school's Christian vision is clearly and consistently expressed so that it is inseparable from strategic decision making. Based on the fruit of the spirit, the school's 'star qualities' show pupils what it means to be good people as well as good learners.
- The school's religious education (RE) curriculum benefits from strong leadership, resulting in an effective and broad curriculum with clearly defined expectations.
- Through a Christian vision rooted in love, Arnside does not just support wellbeing, it teaches for it. Pupils learn to love themselves before also learning how to care for one another.
- The wide range of opportunities within the school's curriculum nourishes the gifts and talents of individuals. In this way, the school's vision is lived out as pupils are enabled to aspire, believe and achieve.
- Guided by the vision, leaders have ensured dignified and carefully matched provision is in place for pupils deemed vulnerable. This enables them to flourish and inspire others.

Development Points

- Further develop non-religious worldviews in the RE curriculum and precisely define the key knowledge so that pupils develop a secure and accurate understanding.
- Clearly define how leaders at all levels will know their carefully planned opportunities for spiritual development are successful. This is so they can ensure that their curriculum is having the intended impact.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

The school's Christian vision has provided a shared purpose and stability through a period of significant change. It is clearly expressed and understood within the school community and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. The vision forms a foundation for relationships and learning for both pupils and adults. School leaders, including governors, took time to review their vision with support from the diocese. As a result, they know that their vision is having the intended impact. This evaluation has resulted in strategic decisions that impact positively on the support provided for pupils, including those deemed vulnerable. It can also be found in the ways that staff are supported to achieve. For example, investment in training has impacted on the quality of RE and collective worship.

Vision and Curriculum

Driven by their vision, leaders have shaped a curriculum that prepares pupils for life in a diverse society. Trips and visits are carefully planned so that pupils broaden their experiences and grow in confidence. Pupils have access to a varied offer that is enriched by the many well-received extracurricular opportunities. Lunchtime and after school clubs enable them to explore their interests and uncover their gifts and talents. For example, the popular crochet club contributes positively to pupil wellbeing, celebrates achievement and supports strong relationships. Pupils with additional needs are enabled to participate fully in the school's curriculum through effective support delivered by skilled staff. There are a range of opportunities within the curriculum and wider school life to support pupils in developing spiritually. However, leaders have not evaluated the impact of these opportunities and so they are not assured that they are successful.

Worship and Spirituality

In line with the school's Christian vision, daily worship supports pupils and adults to deepen their understanding of what it means to act with love. Worship has been thoughtfully planned at Arnside and enables pupils and adults to explore the vision through the lens of the Bible and wider world experiences. The school has worked closely with the diocese to develop its offer. This has resulted in worship that is inclusive and relevant to the needs of the school community through attention to local and world news. Lively song, moments of reflection and pupil responses to thought-provoking questions enable pupils and adults to develop spiritually. Pupils' requests for prayer demonstrate that worship is a time that pupils draw on for comfort as well as a time for joy. Fruitful relationships with the local church have benefited the school community. For example, school and church collaborations have enabled staff and parents to flourish spiritually through their exploration of questions about faith and life.

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

Through the school's vision and 'star qualities', pupils at Arnside develop a secure understanding of responsibility to themselves and one another. Through their well established links with a child in another country, pupils have a growing understanding of how decisions made in one place affect people in another. This extends to a mature sense of care for God's creation as the curriculum develops pupils' awareness of the environment. As a result, pupils are keen to make ethical choices and do so through their behaviour around school and extracurricular activities. Community partnerships have facilitated their rewilding efforts and pupils are proud to share the difference they are making. In the early years, pupils are introduced to the idea that people need different things to be treated well. In this way, very young pupils have developed an early sense of equality as they are clear that some need additional support to be successful.

Religious Education

School leaders have ensured that the RE curriculum is accurate and thoughtfully designed to meet the needs of the pupils of Arnside. The subject benefits from highly effective leadership. This is the result of investment from



school leaders, including governors, and support from the diocese. Through careful evaluation, leaders have correctly identified areas to develop in the curriculum. They have acted upon these swiftly with the support of training. For example, the broad curriculum identifies opportunities to revisit key ideas and vocabulary about a range of faiths. The content and vocabulary to be learned at each stage is clearly identified for different religions. Key knowledge of non-religious worldviews has not been defined with the same precision and, as a result, pupils are unable to recall these ideas accurately.

Pupils make strong progress in their RE learning as a result of their teachers' secure subject knowledge. Pupils enjoy their lessons and are keen to learn about the beliefs of others. They take pride in their work and respond to questions with developed responses that reveal a secure understanding. Pupils have a mature awareness of diversity within and between religions. In Key Stage 1, pupils can confidently articulate similarities and differences between the beliefs of Jews and Christians. This is further enhanced by visits and visitors that have enabled pupils to engage with the lived experiences of people of faith. Pupils draw upon the school's Easter walk, incorporating Catholic, Methodist and Anglican churches to exemplify variance within Christian practices. Assessment identifies those pupils who would benefit from additional support to be successful.

Vision and School Culture

Arnside National is a school where relationships and action are rooted in love. The school's vision and associated 'star qualities' shape interactions and behaviour so that school is a joyful and kind place to be. Based on the fruit of the spirit, these qualities are explicitly taught and pupils aspire to improve each one through practice. In times of disagreement, they are able to use them to reflect and repair relationships. Through consistent routines and nurturing love, the youngest pupils develop patience and self control. Following the model provided by older pupils, they treat one another well. In line with the school vision, pupils are taught that they are people of intrinsic worth. Yoga and mindfulness are a part of daily life at Arnside. They support pupils to regulate and reflect during a valued moment of calm in a busy day. The school's dignified and aspirational approach to the support for the most vulnerable ensures they are successful and celebrated.

Information

Address	Church Hill, Arnside, Carnforth, LA50DW		
Date	03 February 2026	URN	137686
Type of school	Academy	No. of pupils	97
Diocese	Carlisle		
Headteacher	Nick Sharp		
Chair of Governors	Tracey Taylor		
Inspector	Vikki Wilson		